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COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES FROM THE TERRITORIES OF THE BALTIC STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 19 January 1994 from the Permanent Representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to bring to your attention the text of a statement dated 19 January 1994 by the Prime Ministers of the Baltic States (see annex) in response to a statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, A. Kozyrev, on 18 January 1994. We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Complete withdrawal of foreign military forces from the territories of the Baltic States", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ernst JAAKSON
Permanent Representative of
Estonia to the United Nations

(Signed) Aivars BAUMANIS
Permanent Representative of
Latvia to the United Nations

(Signed) Anicetas SIMUTIS
Permanent Representative of
Lithuania to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement dated 19 January 1994 by the Prime Ministers of the Baltic States

On 18 January 1994, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, A. Kozyrev, presented a new foreign policy concept that also relates to the Baltic States and that differs fundamentally from the official policy declared to date by Russia. In essence, this concept foresees the option of maintaining troops in the Baltic States to avoid a "security vacuum" which, according to Kozyrev, would be filled by forces hostile to Russia. In his speech, A. Kozyrev classifies the Baltic States as a "near abroad" region from which emanate the main threats to Russia's vital interests.

This means that the "Partnership for Peace" plan offered by the United States and accepted by the summit meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels, as well as the creation of a new European security structure, are being put into question.

The newly declared approach to relations with the Baltic States complicates the process of negotiations on Russian troop withdrawal from Latvia and Estonia. Although in the past months a certain degree of progress had been achieved, this new Russian approach virtually undermines the entire process of future negotiations.

The statements made by the Russian Foreign Minister are in complete disagreement with Russia's international obligations, which are fixed in several important United Nations, North Atlantic Cooperation Council and Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe documents regarding prompt, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Russian armed forces from the Baltic States.

In this context, Russian troops within the Baltic States become to an even greater degree the main destabilizing factor in the Baltic region. The most recent orders issued by the Russian Federation North West Military Group command regarding the use of firearms can increase the possibility of provocations, which can have unpredictable consequences.

The Heads of Government of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania believe that this kind of foreign and military policy statement by Russia is aimed directly against the sovereignty of the Baltic States.

The Heads of Government of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania demand that Russia carry out its promise to complete the withdrawal of its military forces from Estonia and Latvia by 31 August 1994.

Valdis BIRKAVS Prime Minister Republic of Latvia	Mart LAAR Prime Minister Republic of Estonia	Adolfas SLEZEVICIUS Prime Minister Republic of Lithuania

Jurmala, Latvia
19 January 1994